

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISTANB 00571 091240Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SCCT-01 AID-05 DHA-02 OMB-01 IO-11

NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 USSS-00

OC-05 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 /104 W

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R 090958Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6986

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 0571

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, TU

SUBJ: SENIOR POLICE OFFICIAL'S VIEWS ON STUDENT UNREST  
AND LEFTIST TERRORISM

1. ON FEB 5 CONGEN OFFICERS CALLED ON NIHAT KANER, DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE IN CHARGE OF SECURITY AND RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATIONS AGAINST MILITANT GROUPS. HE COMMENTED ON RECENT IDEOLOGICALLY INSPIRED VIOLENCE AND UPON THE SECURITY FORCES INABILITY TO CONTAIN IT.

HIGHLIGHTS OF KANER'S REMARKS REPORTED BELOW; MEMCON BEING SUBMITTED BY POUCH.

2. NEW ANTI-DEMONSTRATION LAW. KANER WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT VALUE OF NEW LAW WHICH PERMITS GOVERNORS TO POSTPONE MEETINGS/DEMONSTRATIONS FOR UP TO TEN DAYS IF PUBLIC SAFETY DEEMED ENDANGERED. HE FELT (A) IN LONG RUN LAW WOULD BE RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL BY CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AND (B) IN SHORT TERM IT MIGHT CREATE ADDITIONAL COMPLICATIONS FOR THE POLICE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF AUTHORITIES DELAY A MILITANT GROUPS DEMONSTRATION, GROUP MAY CHOOSE NOT TO COMPLY WITH POSTPONEMENT AND ENGAGE POLICE IN CLASH. SINCE CERTAIN  
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PAGE 02 ISTANB 00571 091240Z

ELEMENTS WELCOME ENCOUNTERS, THIS COULD POSE SERIOUS PROBLEM,

ESPECIALLY IF SEVERAL GROUPS WERE TO SEEK PERMISSION FOR DEMONSTRATIONS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF CITY ON SAME DAY AND MEET REFUSAL. GROUPS THUS COULD TIE UP MAJOR PORTION OF SECURITY FORCES BY ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATIONS.

3. VIOLENCE FROM LEFT. KANER AGREED THAT MILITANT LEFT HAD MOVED FROM PASSIVE RESISTANCE TO TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. HE NOTED THAT IN EARLY JANUARY BOMB HAD BEEN THROWN AT POLICE STATION IN ZEYTINBURNU DISTRICT OF CITY. POLICE CAPTURED PERPETRATOR WHO TURNED OUT TO BE UNSKILLED LABORER IN EARLY TWENTIES RECRUITED FOR OPERATION

AFTER INTERROGATION, WORKER IDENTIFIED RESIDENCE OF GROUP WHICH HAD PERSUADED HIM TO THROW BOMB. SECURITY FORCES SURROUNDED THE DWELLING JAN 17, AND AFTER RAID IN WHICH ONE SUSPECT WAS KILLED, CAPTURED TWO MEMBERS OF THE TURKISH WORKERS AND PEASANTS LIBERATION ARMY (TIKKO). KANER NOTED THAT SUBSEQUENTLY POLICE HAD BEEN WARNED OF LEFTIST BOMB THREAT FEB 4 AGAINST HURRIYET NEWSPAPER FOR PRINTING CAPTURE STORY ON FRONT PAGE OF JAN 18 EDITION. HOWEVER, THREAT WAS NOT CARRIED OUT. KANER ADDED THAT "ANARCHISTS" CAPTURED IN ISTANBUL BELONGED TO SAME GROUP (TIKKO) AS THREE KILLED IN LATE JANUARY IN MALATAYA, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN LINKED WITH THE TURKISH PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY (THKO).

4. POLICE CAPABILITIES. KANER REPORTED THAT SECURITY FORCES HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY INFILTRATING TERRORIST OR POTENTIAL TERRORIST GROUPS BECAUSE INDIVIDUALS WHO MIGHT BE RECRUITED WANTED FROM FIVE TO TEN THOUSAND LIRA PER MONTH FOR THEIR SERVICES, A FIGURE THAT POLICE CANNOT HOPE TO MEET. KANER SAID POTENTIAL "AGENTS" WERE AFRAID OF EXPOSURE AND REPRISALS AS "HAD HAPPENED AFTER MARCH 12", (APPARENTLY SEVERAL UNDERCOVER PERSONNEL WHO HAD PENETRATED EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE MARTIAL LAW ERA WERE LATER EXPOSED AND SUFFERED RETRIBUTION.)

5. THREAT TO US INSTALLATIONS. KANER STATED THAT POLICE HAD NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT ACTIONS CONTEMPLATED AGAINST US INSTALLATIONS--IN FACT HE CLAIMED NOT TO BE AWARE OF RECENT BOMBING OF U.S. MILITARY VEHICLE IN FRONT OF MERHABA PALAS IN ANKARA. HE SAID HE COULD NOT, HOWEVER, RULE OUT SIMILAR BOMBINGS OF US VEHICLES IN ISTANBUL AND RECOMMENDED THAT TO EXTENT POSSIBLE US PERSONNEL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISTANB 00571 091240Z

PARK VEHICLES OFF STREETS. HE ADDED THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE UNDULY NERVOUS SINCE TO HIS KNOWLEDGE US HAD NOT BEEN SINGLED OUT AS SOLE TARGET. TURKISH POLICE, AND SOVIET MISSION WERE EQUALLY VULNERABLE ACCORDING TO KANER SINCE MAJOR SOURCE OF VIOLENCE IS "MAOIST" LEFT. HE CITED CLASH AT CITY MORGUE FEB 2 (ISTANBUL 497) AS EXAMPLE OF FRICTION EXISTING BETWEEN "MAOIST" AND "LENINIST" FACTIONS.

COMMENT: AS ONE WULD EXPECT FROM A MAN RESONSIBLE FOR  
MAINTAINING ORDER, KANER HAS AN AUTHORITARIAN APPROACH TO THE  
QUESTION OF VIOLENCE, AND SAID THAT IF HE HAD POWER TO HOLD SUSPECTS  
FOR FITEEN DAYS AND CONDUCT HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES WITHOUT COURT  
PERMISSION , HE THOUGHT HE COULD RAPIDLY NEUTRALIZE TROUBL-  
MAKERS FROM BOTH EXTREMES. SINCE THERE IS NO LIKELIHOOD OF  
POLICE BEING GRANTED THESE POWERS UNDER A DEMOCRATIC REGIME,  
HE SAID THAT WE SHALL ALL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE POSSIBILITY  
OF CONTINUING VIOLENCE, AND SHOULD TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS

IT WAS APPARENT FROM MEASURES TAKEN DURING AMBASSADOR  
MACOMBER'S TRANSIT OF ISTANBUL FEB 7 THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT  
AUTHORITIES ARE MAINTAINING A TIGHTER SECURITY THAN WE HAVE WITNESSED

SINCE MARTIAL LAW PERIOD. APPROXIMATELY FIFTY UNIFORMED POLICE LINED  
ROUTE FROM AIRCRAFT TO VIP LOUNGE. DURING TRIP TO AND FROM CONGEN  
AMBASSADOR'S VEHICLE WAS PRECEDED BY POLICE VEHICLE WITH SIREN AND  
FOLLOWED BY POLICE SECURITY CAR CONTAINING SIX SECURITY AGENTS  
INCLUDING SENIOR SECURITY OFFICIAL. ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS WERE  
ALSO PATROLING AREA OF AMBASSADOR'S PLANE  
BOTH ON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE.  
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